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PERFIN RECAP

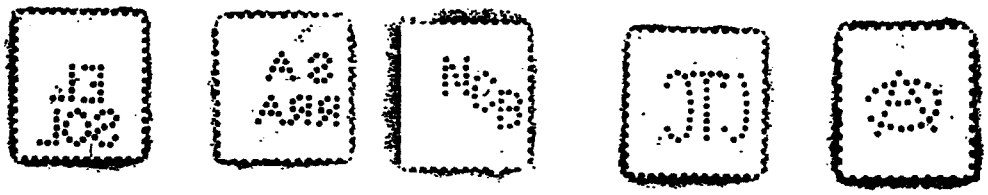
by Rudy Roy, Jr.

Prompted by an article in the October 1972 issue of the Cuban Philatelist, written by Laura and Agustin Cantens, this writer has become an avid persuer of any information concerning the use of perforated initials in Cuba. With more than one year of concentrated study and research, a recap of the data now known and a plea for further assistance - to discover what remains unknown is felt in order.

The use of perforated initials (perfins) on Cuban stamps probably began about 1914, as they first appear on stamps of this issue. They - continue in use as late as 1950, as I have a stamp issued that year with a perfin initial on it. How long they were in use after late 1950 is - unknown, as meter became quite popular about that time.

Perfins can be found on nearly all the various types of stamps -- issued during the period - definitives, commemoratives, air-post, pos-- tal tax, and revenue. If they were used on special delivery and semi-postals remain unknown, for I have not seen such usage.

Perfins were not limited to postage stamps, but can also be found on postal stationery. This item is the 2¢ U.S. postal card, Scott UX2, which was revalued in 1904 by means of a perforated # 1.



The following patterns have been positively identified. They are:

AC (monogram) - American Club of Havana.
BNC - Banco Nacional de Cuba (found only on aerly issues).
CTC - Cuban Telephone Company,
DUN - R.G. Dun & Co. (Dun & Bradstreet successots).
EL SOL - El Sol del Canada, Cia. de Seguros de Vida.
GE - General Electric.
NCB - National City Bank of New York, Havana Branch.
NLY - New York Life Insurance Co.
PD - Parke-Davis Co.
RV/&/Co - Cultural, S.A., La Habana.
SA/RRA - Drogueria Sarra.

Tentative identification have been made of the following perfins:

E/N/C - Empresa Naviera de Cuba

M/&CO - Monroe & Company, Havana.

S/E/C - Solis, Entrialgo y Cia. (El Encanto).

The following patterns remain unknown as to what their initials stand for:

A&C - F/R/Co - NPT - O&C - Q/H/C

The discovery of 19 different patterns thus far, places Cuba in the top three countries of Latim America in use of perforated initials.

While this writer is indebted to all who have provided asistance with this research effort, the large number that have been tantatively identified, and those that are un-identified, necessitate a request for your, the reader's assistance in completing this work. The most positive identifications are made from covers with a perfin on them and a corner card identification of the company using them. However, lacking this, if you remember any such company that used similar initials to identify itself, this would be a great asist. Write to me at the following address:

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Meeting of the New York/New Jersey Chapter

This picture was taken during one of the meetings of the chapter. Shown are: Jose Mulet, Dr. Roberto Rosende, Mercy Rosende, Marta Diaz, Bernabe de Varona, Miguel A. DeDios, Fernando Prado, Jose Gonzalez, Pedro Dieguez, Eduardo Perez, and Juan Triana.